CITYNEWS

MAY 2006 FROM THE CITY OF VANCOUVER

FIRE HALL OPEN HOUSES

Drop by one of Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services' open houses this summer. Meet your local firefighters, learn what they do, and discuss fire and safety concerns. See how fire halls work, and enjoy refreshments, prize draws, and demonstrations.

All open houses are from 1 to 3 pm:

DATE	FIRE HALL #		
July 9	6	5	3
July 16	7	9	4
July 23	8	13	10
July 30	14	17	12
August 13	15	18	21
August 20	20	19	22

Check your phone book blue pages, or call **604.665.6000** for the exact location of your local fire hall.

ALARM PERMIT: DO YOU NEED ONE?

If you own a security alarm system, monitored or local (non-monitored), don't forget, you must have an alarm permit. Under the Security Alarm Bylaw, which was implemented to help reduce false alarms, you must have a permit before installing and/or possessing an alarm system in any home, building, or on any premise.

If you do not have a permit, you could be subject to a fine of anywhere between $100 and $2,000. It's the alarm user's responsibility to purchase and renew alarm permits annually.

For more information: 604.871.6150
Website: vpd.ca/falsealarm

THE 2006 BUDGET: A BALANCING ACT

YOUR CITY TAXES pay for many services that not only benefit you and your family, but also your community.

Every year the City of Vancouver faces the challenge of balancing community needs, and addressing emerging costs over which the City has no control (e.g. increases in energy and regional sewer system costs) against the need to keep tax increases at an affordable level.

The challenge for Council this year was to address a $29 million shortfall and also review the share of taxes paid by residents and businesses.

Following input from the public (via surveys and public meetings) and a lengthy Council debate, a balanced budget was reached. The result was increased funding for some areas, reductions to others, efficiency cuts throughout the system and a 4 per cent tax increase.

Enhanced services include the addition of 77 staff to the Vancouver Police Department, with 50 more police officers deployed; support for an economic development strategy for Vancouver; neighbourhood planning through the Community Visions programs; and improved street maintenance.

This budget allows the City to continue to provide you with services that you value such as the maintenance of library services; local transportation improvements including Greenway development; arts and culture initiatives, key for the economic, social and cultural health of Vancouver; and maintenance of recreation facilities and parks.

The tax increase of 4 per cent did not include changes to the share of taxes collected from businesses and residents.

As part of the budget discussion, Council also considered how residential and non-residential properties should share in the cost of tax-supported services. Council decided to reduce the proportion of taxes paid by non-residential properties from 56 per cent to 55 per cent. The purpose of this modest tax relief was to assist Vancouver's local merchants by helping to ensure they can stay in business serving our local neighbourhoods.

This means that the average homeowner with a property valued at $570,000 will see their property tax increase by a total of 6.4 per cent, or $6.80 per month. A similarly valued business property will see their property taxes increase by 2.2 per cent, or $14.50 per month.

For more information:
vancouver.ca/citychoices ■

IT'S YOUR CITY... STAY INFORMED

WATCH GVTV

GVTV is the City of Vancouver's TV news-magazine show about the people, places, issues and debates affecting our city. Watch the show on TV, or view our stories online.
Shaw Channel 4, Wednesdays at 8:30 pm
Online at www.gvtv.ca

WATCH COUNCIL DEBATES

See all the action and the decision-making. Council meetings can be viewed live on TV, or anytime online:
Shaw Channel 4, Tuesdays at 2 pm
vancouver.ca/councilvideo

SIGN UP FOR CITY NEWS RELEASES

Go online and sign up to get the latest news releases sent directly to your e-mail:
vancouver.ca/newsreleases

VISIT OUR WHAT'S NEW PAGE

It's updated every Friday and highlights events and news for the upcoming week.
vancouver.ca/whatsnew

THE KILLARNEY LEISURE Pool, the first new indoor public pool built in Vancouver in 25 years, was opened by the Park Board in March, giving the city a fun-filled aquatic complex with magnificent views of the North Shore mountains.

The pool offers a range of features for all ages: a beach-style entry, a 25-metre lap pool, a 15-metre warm lap pool, a "lazy river" play feature, a giant water slide, spray features, a whirlpool and family change rooms. Natural light illuminates the complex through the 600-square-metre, north-facing glass wall that looks out to the mountains. The facility was designed to provide access, recreation and fitness for the broadest range of users possible and includes wheelchair access points to the leisure, lap and hot pools.

The new state-of-the-art pool was designed to reduce energy and water use, and is ozone treated for clearer water and cleaner air.

Located at:
Killarney Community Centre,
6260 Killarney Street (at 49th Avenue)

Open weekdays: 6:15 am to 10 pm;
and weekends: 8 am to 9 pm

Information:
604.718.8280 or vancouverparks.ca ■

ONLINE TAX NOTICES

There's now an easier way for Vancouver homeowners to pay property tax notices and utility bills. The City of Vancouver has partnered with epost™, Canada Post's free online mail delivery service, to offer residents the ability to view, pay, print and store their bills online through all major banking websites in Canada. You'll also be able to complete and submit Home Owner Grant applications electronically. Residents who choose epost will receive both an electronic and paper version of their bills for the upcoming billing period, but after that will no longer receive paper versions. Sign up with epost by July 5, 2006 for this new service that's convenient and more environmentally sustainable, and you'll be entered for a chance to win one of 15 iPods® from epost.

For more information, visit: www.epost.ca/cityofvancouver

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iPod is a trademark of Apple Computer Inc.

Business is open

Businesses along the Canada Line construction route want you to know they are open for business. With construction for the Canada Line rapid transit system underway, there will be disruptions and changes to the traffic patterns along Granville Street, Cambie Street, No. 3 Road, and in Yaletown. But, shops, restaurants, and businesses along these routes are still open and ready to serve you as always. Look for the "O" sign in windows and keep supporting your local businesses.

For more information about the Canada Line: canadaline.ca

WORLD URBAN FORUM

From June 19 to 23, Vancouver will play host to the World Urban Forum – an international gathering of governments, local authorities, non-governmental and community organizations, experts, and other interested parties to discuss urban issues.

The WUF was established by the United Nations to address urban challenges such as poverty, improving access for the poor to basic life needs, and ensuring growth and development is sustainable and environmentally responsible. The 2006 forum will include a series of dialogue/discussion sessions, networking events, and an exhibition which will revolve around the theme "Our Future: Sustainable Cities – Turning Ideas into Action."

Registration is free, and may be completed online.

To register or for more information on WUF: www.unhabitat.org/wuf

OLYMPIC UPDATE

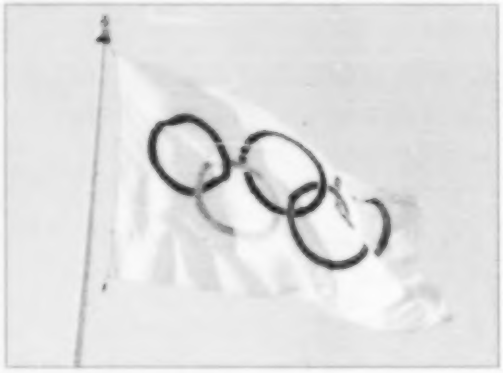
ON FEBRUARY 26, Mayor Sam Sullivan captivated the world when he accepted the Olympic Flag at the Closing Ceremony of the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, Italy. This kicked off a series of celebration events in Vancouver to mark the official start of the countdown to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver. Residents and visitors watched the flag handover at a street party in Library Square on February 26.

In the following days, the flag was raised outside City Hall; the Inukshuk at English Bay was illuminated; the Governor General of Canada unveiled the original Olympic flag in a display case in the City Hall lobby; and construction officially started on the Vancouver Olympic Village at Southeast False Creek.

OLYMPIC ATHLETES' VILLAGE

The Vancouver Olympic Village will be built on the last large tract of undeveloped waterfront land in downtown Vancouver, which is bound by Cambie Bridge on the west, Main Street on the east, and 2nd Avenue to the south. The City is redeveloping the 50 acres of the site it owns, with the first phase being the Olympic Village which will house up to 2,800 athletes and officials. The roads, water, sewer, community energy and rainwater systems are expected to be nearly finished by 2007.

A developer has been selected and construction of the buildings will start in early 2007. The completed Village will be turned over to the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) in November 2009. VANOC will put the finishing touches to the Village in time for the Games in mid-February 2010. After the 2010 Winter Games, the Village will be transformed into housing for approximately 2,000 residents. The area will also include a new community centre, a non-motorized boating facility, and a childcare facility. From 2010 to 2018, further development will result in a model community of economic, social, and environmental sustainability that will house up to 16,000 people.



THE OLYMPIC FLAG

The City is proudly displaying the Olympic Flag in two locations at City Hall through the 2010 Winter Games. The display case in the lobby of City Hall holds the flag that was originally presented to the International Olympic Committee by the City of Oslo, Norway at the 1952 Olympic Winter Games.

This flag is passed on to each Host City of the Winter Games. Because of its age and fragility, it is not used in the actual Closing Ceremony, but is passed on behind the scenes to the next Host City.

The Olympic Flag flying on the north lawn outside City Hall was raised on February 28, 2006. It was created especially for this purpose. The flag is 4.9 metres by 7.6 metres (16' x 25'), and flies from an 24-metre-high (80') flagpole. Residents and visitors are invited to come by City Hall to view these flags.

To keep up to date: vancouver.ca/olympics ■

CITY OF VANCOUVER

Plan for the Can

YARD TRIMMINGS

HOMES THAT RECEIVE yard trimmings collection service from the City of Vancouver are getting new containers, as the City continues to phase in the automated collection system. If you have not received a yard trimmings container yet, find out when your neighbourhood is scheduled for delivery at: **vancouver.ca/garbage**. Once you get the container, start using it right away. Instructions on how to use the containers will be delivered with the cart, and are also available on the website.

All yard trimmings (grass, leaves, small branches etc.) must be put in the container for collection. Once you receive your container, no extra bags, bundles or cans of yard trimmings will be collected except during the unlimited fall leaf collection period between October 1 and January 31. Leaves that don't fit into your container during this period must be set out in biodegradable "kraft" paper bags or in labelled "Leaf Cans" only. Yard trimmings or leaves set out in plastic bags will no longer be collected. Large loads of yard trimmings may be dropped off, for a fee, at the Vancouver South Transfer Station at 377 West Kent Avenue.

Information: 604.326.4710
planforthecan@vancouver.ca ■

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Beginning in late spring or early summer, City staff will begin a review of issues affecting restaurants. They will be looking at three main areas: the hours of liquor service at restaurants; the parameters and rules around lounge areas (where alcohol can be served without food); and the number of customers allowed in a restaurant at one time with respect to building and fire bylaws (i.e. whether restaurants that serve alcohol should be subject to the same exit requirements as bars). A series of open houses will be held to discuss ideas, concerns and potential options. This feedback will be used to draft a policy that will be presented to City Council.

To learn more and find out about the open houses, vancouver.ca/liquorreview or e-mail liquor_review@vancouver.ca

one day...

If you find it hard to keep your home warm or are already planning a renovation, maximize the benefits of your work by incorporating energy efficiency. Why? You could:

- improve comfort and health
- save thousands of dollars through incentives and grants
- beat the high cost of energy
- increase your home's resale value
- protect the environment.

One Day at Home is a City of Vancouver initiative to make it easy for homeowners to evaluate home energy savings opportunities; arrange attractive renovation financing; choose a reputable contractor; and access all of the grants and incentives currently offered in Vancouver. *Special time-limited opportunity*: Complete your renovation before December 31, 2006 and double your tax-free Energuide for Houses grant. (Some conditions apply.)

Learn more at: onedayathome.ca

THE ROAD AHEAD

WITH THE WARMER weather comes roadwork season in Vancouver. Scheduling construction during spring and summer takes advantage of drier conditions and lower traffic volumes. Projects such as sewer and water main replacements; transit and safety improvements; and paving are done at the same time to cut down on the length of disruptions and reduce project costs. Watch for these major projects this year:

BROADWAY: Nanaimo to Yukon (May to September) Improvements to transit and pedestrian facilities; repaving roadways; construction of new separated sewer and water systems; and addition of curbs, sidewalks, trees, and traffic webcams.

COMMERCIAL DRIVE: Venables to Grandview Highway North (until June) Construction of new sewer main and water services; 16 blocks of sidewalks; new curbs and gutters and a pedestrian signal; street tree planting.

BLENHEIM STREET: 16th Avenue to Southwest Marine Drive (begins late 2006) Corridor renewal project to improve safety, traffic calming and livability.

CARRALL STREET: Water Street to Pacific Boulevard (begins October 2006) Construction of Greenway to connect Chinatown, Downtown Eastside and Gastown, allowing recreational movement between the False Creek seawall and Burrard Inlet.

MAIN STREET: Cordova to Southwest Marine (continuing until late 2006) Addition of bus bulges, improved pedestrian crossings and sidewalks as part of a regional project to promote walking, cycling, and transit in the GVRD.

CANADA LINE: Ongoing work for the rapid transit project along Cambie, Granville, and in Yaletown. See **canadaline.ca** for schedule and traffic information.

For roadwork updates visit roadahead.ca or call 604.873.7070 ■

ONE BOOK, ONE VANCOUVER 2006

PATRICK LANE'S *There is a Season: A Memoir* has been chosen as Vancouver Public Library's One Book, One Vancouver selection for 2006. Now in its fifth year, One Book, One Vancouver is a book club for the entire city, cultivating a culture of reading and discussion in Vancouver by bringing people together around one great book every summer. Patrick Lane is one of Canada's most accomplished poets, but for most of his writing life, he was addicted to drugs and alcohol. Lane, a Governor General's Award-winning poet, began *There is a Season* during his first year out of rehab, when he returned to his beloved garden to begin the slow recovery from drug and alcohol dependency.

Visit **vpl.ca** for more information on *There is a Season*, other short-listed titles, and special One Book, One Vancouver readings, book clubs and events at VPL branches throughout the summer.

AUTOMATED PUBLIC TOILETS

EIGHT AUTOMATED public toilets will be added to Vancouver's streets beginning this summer. The City has recently ordered the toilets, which will be installed for public use, mostly in the downtown area. Toilets will be free of charge and will supplement current City toilets at Main and Hastings Street, and on Hamilton Street. Sensors in the new units detect when an occupant leaves, and the toilets are then automatically cleaned and sanitized following each use. The toilets are connected directly to City utilities, and a telephone is provided for emergency use. Two larger toilet units will be free standing, and the six smaller ones will be placed in conjunction with transit shelters.

The toilets will be provided at no cost through the City's street furniture contract with Viacom/JCDecaux, which finances the operation through revenue from advertising panels. The colour and appearance of the toilets will match other street furniture installed by Viacom, such as transit shelters, litter containers, recycling racks, benches, and bike racks.

DON'T FORGET: LAWN SPRINKLING RESTRICTIONS

Annual lawn sprinkling restrictions are in effect in Vancouver from June 1 to September 30 each year.

Lawn sprinkling is allowed:

4 am to 9 am or 7 pm to 10 pm only

even numbered addresses may sprinkle Wednesdays and Saturdays

odd numbered addresses may sprinkle Thursdays and Sundays.

Flower and vegetable gardens may be watered when necessary.

For more information call the Water Conservation Hotline at 604.873.7350.

GET YOUR YARD OFF DRUGS

The use of outdoor pesticides, including insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides on lawns and in gardens of Vancouver homes is now restricted. Certain conditions will need to be met before pesticides may be applied, such as controlling an infestation or destroying a health hazard. However, certain reduced risk products on lawns and in gardens will be allowed. For more information visit the Grow Natural website at **growanatural.ca** or contact Environmental Health at **604.675.3800** or the Vancouver Demonstration Garden at **604.736.2250**.

GET IN TOUCH WITH THE CITY

vancouver.ca/intouch.html

MULTILINGUAL PHONE LINES

For more information about the City in these languages, call:

資料查詢 604.871.6868

ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਵੋ 604.871.6565

Hoi chi tiết 604.871.6969

Obtenga Información 604.871.6464

CITYNEWS is published twice a year with the support of the City's Communications Division (604.873.7136). To submit comments or suggestions on the many programs and services provided by the City, please write us at: CITYNEWS, Public Affairs Group, 453 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4. Website: vancouver.ca

CITY OF VANCOUVER

City of Vancouver Archives